

## CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1           1. A reclosable carton comprising:

2                 (a) an end panel, an opposite end panel and foldably attached  
3 adjoining side panels, said carton having a top closed by a pair of top end flaps with  
4 each foldably attached to an end panel, and a top reclosable flap and a top tear flap,  
5 with each flap being foldably attached to an adjoining side panel by a fold line, said  
6 top tear flap secured by glue in a closed position overlapping the top reclosable flap,  
7 said carton having a bottom closed by closing means;

8                 (b) said top tear flap having a locking slit located between the flap  
9 and the adjoining side panel and having a zipper strip formed by a pair of tear lines,  
10 which when torn open allows access to the inside of the carton, said pair of tear lines  
11 being generally parallel to the fold line between the top tear flap and adjoining side  
12 panel, said pair of tear lines extending across said top tear flap, said top reclosable  
13 flap having an end remote from the fold line between said top reclosable flap and  
14 adjoining side panel, said carton having a tuck flap with two sides which is foldably  
15 attached to the remote end of the reclosable flap by a fold line; and

16                 (c) said top of the carton being capable of being reclosed after it  
17 has been opened by closing and inserting said tuck flap into said locking slit.

1           2. The carton of claim 1, in which the top tear flap has an end remote  
2 from the fold line between the side panel and top tear flap with a top seal strip located  
3 between its remote end and the zipper strip, with the top seal strip being glued to the  
4 reclosable flap in an overlapping position.

1           3.     The carton of claim 2, in which said locking slit between the top tear  
2 flap and adjoining side panel has a center section and two side sections with the center  
3 section spaced slightly closer to the remote end of the top tear flap than the side  
4 sections so as to form a locking shoulder where the center section of the slit meets a  
5 side section of the slit, with a cut line being located between the tuck flap and the top  
6 reclosable flap and extending from each side of the tuck flap until it meets the fold  
7 line between the tuck flap and top reclosable flap thereby forming a locking shoulder  
8 at a distance from the side of the tuck flap so that the locking shoulders on the cut line  
9 interlock with the locking shoulders in the locking slit, when the tuck flap is inserted  
10 into the locking slit thereby holding the tuck flap in a reclosed locked position.

1           4.     The carton of claim 1, in which one of the end panels is formed from a  
2 pair of flaps that are glued together.

1           5.     The carton of claim 1, in which the means for closing the bottom of the  
2 carton is a pair of bottom flaps with each flap foldably attached to a side panel and a  
3 pair of bottom end flaps with each flap foldably attached to an end panel, said flaps  
4 being secured in the closed position by being glued together.

1           6.     The carton of claim 3, in which the means for closing the bottom of the  
2 carton is a pair of bottom flaps with each flap foldably attached to a side panel and a  
3 pair of bottom end flaps with each flap foldably attached to an end panel, said flaps  
4 being secured in the closed position by being glued together.

1           7. The carton of claim 1, in which the top tear flap has an end remote  
2 from the fold line between the side panel and top tear flap with the locking slit  
3 between said top tear flap and adjoining side panel having a center section and two  
4 side sections with the center section spaced slightly closer to the remote end of the top  
5 tear flap than the side sections so as to form a locking shoulder where the center  
6 section of the slit meets a side section of the slit, with a cut line being located between  
7 the tuck flap and the top reclosable flap and extending from each side of the tuck flap  
8 until it meets the fold line between the tuck flap and top resealable flap thereby forming  
9 a locking shoulder at a distance from the side of the tuck flap so that the locking  
10 shoulders on the cut line interlock with the locking shoulders in the locking slit, when  
11 the tuck flap is inserted into the locking slit thereby holding the tuck flap in a reclosed  
12 locked position.

1           8. A carton that has been opened and reclosed comprising:

2               (a) an end panel, an opposite end panel and foldably attached  
3 adjoining side panels, said carton having a top closed by a pair of top end flaps with  
4 each foldably attached to an end panel, and a top reclosable flap and a top tear flap,  
5 with each flap being foldably attached to an adjoining side panel by a fold line;

6               (b) said top reclosable flap being secured by locks in the reclosed  
7 position overlapping the top tear flap, said top tear flap having an end remote from the  
8 fold line between the side panel and top tear flap with said top tear flap having a  
9 locking slit located between the flap and the adjoining side panel, said locking slit  
10 having a center section and two side sections with the center section spaced slightly  
11 closer to the remote end of the top tear flap than the side section so as to form a  
12 locking shoulder where the center section of the slit meets a side section of the slit,  
13 with a cut line being located between the tuck flap and the top reclosable flap and  
14 extending from each side of the tuck flap until it meets the fold line between the tuck  
15 flap and top resealable flap thereby forming a locking shoulder at a distance from the  
16 side of the tuck flap so that the locking shoulders on the cut line interlock with the  
17 locking shoulders in the locking slit, when the tuck flap is inserted into the locking slit  
18 thereby holding the tuck flap in a reclosed locked position; and

19               (c) said carton having a bottom closed by closing means.

1           9.       The reclosed carton of claim 8, in which the means for closing the  
2 bottom of the carton is a pair of bottom flaps with each flap foldably attached to a side  
3 panel and a pair of bottom end flaps with each flap foldably attached to an end panel,  
4 said flaps being secured in the closed position by being glued together.

1           10.      A blank for forming a reclosable carton comprising:  
2                 (a)     an end panel, two end flaps for forming an opposite end panel  
3 and foldably attached adjoining side panels, said carton formed from the blank having  
4 a top closed by a pair of top end flaps with each foldably attached to an end panel, and  
5 a top reclosable flap and a top tear flap, with each flap being foldably attached to an  
6 adjoining side panel by a fold line;  
7                 (b)     said top tear flap having a locking slit located between the flap and the  
8 adjoining side panel and having a zipper strip formed by a pair of tear lines, which  
9 when torn open allows access to the inside of the carton formed from the blank, said  
10 pair of tear lines being generally parallel to the fold line between the top tear flap and  
11 adjoining side panel, said pair of tear lines extending across said top tear flap, said top  
12 reclosable flap having an end remote from the fold line between said top reclosable  
13 flap and adjoining side panel, said carton having a tuck flap with two sides which is  
14 foldably attached to the remote end of the reclosable flap by a fold line; and  
15                 (c)     said top of the carton formed from said blank being capable of  
16 being reclosed after it has been opened by tearing said zipper strip open by closing  
17 and inserting said tuck flap into said locking slit.

1           11. The blank of claim 10, in which the top tear flap has an end remote  
2 from the fold line between the side panel and top tear flap with said locking slit  
3 between the top tear flap and adjoining side panel having a center section and two  
4 side sections with the center section spaced slightly closer to the remote end of the top  
5 tear flap than the side sections so as to form a locking shoulder where the center  
6 section of the slit meets a side section of the slit, with a cut line being located between  
7 the tuck flap and the top reclosable flap and extending from each side of the tuck flap  
8 until it meets the fold line between the tuck flap and top reclosable flap thereby  
9 forming a locking shoulder at a distance from the side of the tuck flap so that the  
10 locking shoulders on the cut line interlock with the locking shoulders in the locking  
11 slit, when the tuck flap is inserted into the locking slit when a carton formed from said  
12 blank is reclosed thereby holding the tuck flap in a reclosed locked position.